

# **ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT – 2024**

**DUE DATE Friday 26 July 2024**

Please complete the following Activity Report to be eligible for consideration in the Annual MERIT AWARD which recognises the various activities carried out by our affiliated societies.

The report should be **ONE PAGE** only, providing a summary of your activities and actions that occurred between **01 June 2023** and **30 June 2024** return to [admin@histwest.org.au](mailto:admin@histwest.org.au)

Should you wish to submit separately please ensure your organisation's contact details are clearly shown

## **1. Engagement with members** e.g. activities - opportunities for involvement, talks, excursions

10 general meetings a year Feb – Nov. usually in the form of presentations about some facet of Fremantle history. This last year included the following:

AGM at St. John's Church (180 years anniversary) with a talk about the church by Marian Agombar, church warden. Annual Pub Lunch at the Wray Hotel, speaker: Allen Graham – the hotels early history. History of Heathcote Hospital and the culture of mental health nursing in WA, speaker mental health nurse and educator Julia Crook.

Fremantle Studies Day at Walyalup Civic Centre. Included: Bruce Menzies: Fremantle's Orange People and his involvement with them; Steve Grant, editor of Fremantle Herald for 16 years, history of the paper till the present day; Grant Donnes – described a waterfront scandal during WW1 Christmas party at Samson House with guides from the National Trust.

As of April 18<sup>th</sup> we have been able to use the now secured Fremantle History Centre as a venue, and the following events were held there: Inns and outs of Fremantle – Allen Graham: Fremantle's early hotel history. Pensioner Guards - Maeve Harvey described the lives of the guards who were sent out to accompany the convicts. Defence of Fremantle. Dr Shane Burke: key defence installations in Fremantle and nearby coastal suburbs. Convict No. 2. Mattie Turnbull - the discovery of a convict in the family and his journey. Timber, Johns' and sing-a-longs - James Paratore and the origins of the Sicilian fishermen in Fremantle.

## **2. Engagement with the local and wider community** e.g. involvement in committees outside your association, outreach activities; educate, displays, exhibitions, talks, enactments

The Society promotes events via social media. The newsletter and back issues of Fremantle Studies journal are available through Garry Gillard's website: <https://freetopia.org/fhs/index.html>

Working in partnership with Fremantle History Centre we are now able to make use of the Fremantle Council's online booking system Eventbrite for events. This has resulted in much higher numbers attending meetings (70 in June), as we are reaching a much wider audience.

The History Society's biennial scholarship of \$2000 and the offer of publication in the Society journal Fremantle Studies, attracts high level applicants whose research contributes much to Fremantle's written history.

## **3. Research activities**, enquiries and other research, **Publications**, Leaflets, books, websites etc. **Collection development and management, Curation, Oral History and other areas**, achievements and training etc.

We assist with a lot of queries that come in from the wider community via email or facebook, eg: requests for radio interviews (crocodile park, Fremantle woolsheds, duels in Fremantle); connecting people with services such as the Fremantle History Centre, State Records Office, family history groups, cemetery records, Trove, etc.

The Society has now published 12 volumes of Fremantle Studies which features papers presented at our annual Studies Day. We also publish a quarterly newsletter with coming events, meeting reports and articles.

We support the work of local authors or authors who have written books about Fremantle by giving them the opportunity to present and promote their work at our regular meetings eg. Steve Errington, Allen Graham and Julia Crook.